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Application Serial No. 09/886,791

**REMARKS**

A petition for a ~~one-month~~one-month extension time for response and PTO-2038 for the \$110.00 fee are being supplied herewith.

The specification has been amended in page 1 to properly reference applications. Page 5 of the specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error kindly noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 19 and 25 are currently amended. Claims 3-6, 8-10, 14-17, 21-24 and 26-28 are original. Claims 2, 11, 13, 20 and 29 have been canceled

The Examiner has objected to the specification. The specification has been amended in page 5, line 31 to correct an inadvertent error by substituting "activity" for "actively".

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112**

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 18, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the phrase "or the like" renders those claims indefinite.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 7, 18 and 25 in deleting the phrase "or the like" has rendered these claims definite and allowable under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 9 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the phrase "to information to be discussed" renders the claims difficult to understand, and doesn't distinguish who is discussing and what is being discussed.

Again, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 9 and 27 have rendered them definite. Specifically, the phrase "to information to be discussed" and been deleted and "relating to said collaborative purpose" has been substituted therefore.

Therefore, is believed that claims 9 and 27, as currently amended, are allowable over the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103**

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At the outset it felt best to discuss the applicability as a reference of United States Patent No. 6,665,723 issued on December 16, 2003, filed November 29, 2001, to Dirk Trossen (Trossen).

It is noted that the instant application was filed June 21, 2001, claiming priority of provisional application Serial No. 60/266,791, filed on February 6, 2001. It is particularly pointed out that the filing date of Trossen is November 29, 2001, which date is after both the filing dates of the provisional application and the instant application that are February 6, 2001 and June 21, 2001, respectively.

Consequently, it is submitted that Trossen cannot be properly used as a reference against the claims in this application Serial No. 09/886,791, and should be withdrawn as a reference.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,430,567 issued to R. N. Burrige on August 6, 2002, filed June 30, 1998 in view of United States Patent No. 6,750,881 issued June 15, 2004, filed February 24, 1997 to B. Appelman.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 3-10, 14-18 and 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,430,567 issued to R. N. Burrige on August 6, 2002, filed June 30, 1998 in view of United States Patent No. 6,750,881 issued June 15, 2004, filed February 24, 1997 to B. Appelman in further view of United States Patent No. 6,148,328 issued to G. Cuomo et al. on November 14, 2004, filed January 29, 1998.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 11 and 29. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,430,567 issued to R. N. Burrige on August 6, 2002, filed June 30, 1998 in view of United States Patent No. 6,750,881 issued June 15, 2004, filed February 24, 1997 to B. Appelman in further view of United States Patent No. 6,148,328 issued to G. Cuomo et al. on November 14, 2004, filed January 29, 1998 in further view of United States Patent No. 6,665,723 issued to D. Trossen on December 16, 2003, filed November 29, 2001.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims have obviated the Examiner's grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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As noted above, it is believed that the Trossen patent is not and cannot be used in rejecting claims in this application because it was filed after both the filing dates of the instant application, which was filed June 21, 2001, claiming priority of provisional application Serial No. 60/266,791, filed on February 6, 2001. Again, the filing date of the Trossen patent is November 29, 2001. Accordingly, the Trossen patent should be withdrawn as a reference against claims 11 and 29.

Further claim 1, as currently amended, now includes the substance of claims 2 and 11. Thus, since the Trossen patent cannot be a reference against claim 11 it cannot now be applied to claim 1, as currently amend, and claim 1, as currently amended, should be allowed on the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 3-10 are dependent from claim 1, as currently amended. Since claims 3-10 include all the inventive elements of claim 1, as currently amended, so too, claims 3-10 should be allowed over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the same reasons that claim 1, as currently amended is believed to be allowable.

Claim 12, as currently amended, is an apparatus claim that has been amended in essentially the same manner as Claim 1, as currently amended. Thus, it is believed that claim 12, as currently amended, should be allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the same reasons as claim 1, as currently amended.

Claims 14-18 are dependent from claim 12, as currently amended. Since claims 14-18 include all the inventive elements of claim 12, as currently amended, so too, claims 14-18 should be allowed over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the same reasons that claims 1 and 12, as currently amended are believed to be allowable.

Claim 19, as currently amended, now includes the substance of claims 20 and 29. Thus, since the Trossen patent cannot be a reference against claim 29 it cannot now be applied to claim 19, as currently amend, and claim 19, as currently amended, should be allowed on the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 21-28 are dependent from claim 19, as currently amended. Since claims 21-28 include all the inventive elements of claim 19, as currently amended, so too, claims 21-28 should be allowed over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for the same reasons that claim 19, as currently amended is believed to be allowable.

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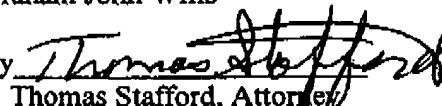
Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-19 and 21-28 remain in this application.

It is now believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully solicited.

If there are still outstanding issues to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call applicants' attorney, Thomas Stafford, at 727-772-4173 so that those issues may be discussed and satisfactorily resolved.

Respectfully,  
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